



**Minutes of the Community Committee of the Democratic Services held on
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 19:00 in The Bungalow, 8 North Street, EX17 2BT.**

Present: Cllrs Liz Brookes-Hocking, Joyce Harris, Steve Huxtable, Giles Fawssett, Natalia Letch, Paul Perriman, Jim Cairney and Guy Cochran

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Two members of the public

Minute Taker: Emma Anderson

MINUTES

165 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened at 19:00 by the Chair, who welcomed everyone. Each member introduced themselves briefly.

166 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public raised a question regarding this Committee's role when commenting on planning applications. Cllr Brookes-Hocking clarified that while the council does not make planning decisions, it is invited to comment on applications as a consultee. She explained the importance of the committee's regular engagement with planning applications to reflect local concerns and amenities. Another question was the potential conflict of interest when councillors serve on both the town council and the district council. Councillor Brookes-Hocking acknowledged the issue but noted that it was not on the agenda for detailed discussion at this time.

167 APOLOGIES

None.

168 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

169 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

It was noted that all decisions would be made with the climate emergency at the forefront of decision and policy making.

170 ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes.

171 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Clerk provided the following updates:

- Devon County Council (DCC) have advised that standard rectangular signs can be issued free of charge, to replace the four "Crediton" signs that have been stolen. We are currently awaiting a quote from DCC's signage contractors with a price to replace the signs with the previous design/shape. The cost of replacing like-for-like would need to be met by the town council.
- Still awaiting advice from Mid Devon District Council regarding Listed Building Consent.
- The contractor due to cut Stonypark has recommended cutting and dropping the grass rather than removing it due to the current condition of the field.

172 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 04 February 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

173 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The committee reviewed several planning applications:

[24/01745/HOUSE | Erection of a two storey extension to dwelling | 28 Barnfield Crediton Devon EX17 3HU](#)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

[25/00017/FULL | Change of use and conversion of vacant coffee shop to laundromat and community warm space \(Sui Generis\) and installation of cover over front door | THPB Ltd 6 High Street Crediton Devon EX17 3AE](#)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection, however members requested clarity as to whether the business would be staffed during working hours, as this information is unclear on the application form. A member of staff onsite would be preferable. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable, Cllr Cochran abstained)

[25/00023/LBC | Listed Building Consent for conversion of vacant coffee shop to laundromat and community warm space, to include the installation of electricity and gas connections, alterations to internal layout and installation of cover over front door | THPB Ltd 6 High Street Crediton Devon EX17 3AE](#)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

[25/00148/FULL | Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 23/01923/FULL \(Construction and operation of a micro energy storage facility\) to allow substitute plans relating to the change of design and specification of the battery box | Land at NGR 282446 100921 \(Playing Field\) Avranches Avenue Crediton Devon](#)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection to the variation of condition 2, as long as the battery box is sited as shown in the original plan. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

[25/00102/HOUSE | Erection of side and rear extension, installation of dormer window for loft conversion and removal of existing garage | Shongweni Buller Road Crediton Devon EX17 2AX](#)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

EWB

[25/00155/CAT | Notification of intention to crown thin and cut back minor branches of 1 weeping Ash in a Conservation Area | Crediton Youth Centre East Street Crediton Devon EX17 3AX](#)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend approval. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

[24/01803/LBC | Listed Building Consent for alterations to ground and first floor layout to facilitate its reuse as offices | Manor Office 6 North Street Crediton Devon EX17 2BT](#)

Application noted.

[25/00185/RPPS | Removal of public payphone service: Telephone Number 01363 772289 | Public Telephone Box St Lawrence Green Crediton Devon EX17 3LH](#)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking). It was further **resolved** to adopt the telephone box for £1 (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

[25/00200/HOUSE | Erection of single storey rear extension and side porch | Windfall Threshers Crediton Devon EX17 3NL](#)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

[25/00207/FULL | Change of use of staff bungalow \(Use Class C3\) to residential care unit \(Use Class C2\) to include the provision of a covered walkway with wheelchair lift | Rosemead & Kenwyn Albert Road Crediton Devon EX17 2BZ](#)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

Task: Submit planning comments to Mid Devon District Council. @Emily Armitage

174 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS:

Noted.

175 CREDITON URBAN TASKFORCE [CUT!]

The next taskforce event was scheduled for Saturday 8 March, returning to Jockey Hill and a schedule has been put together for the next 6 months.

176 PEOPLES PARK

Councillor Fawcett updated the committee on activities at Peoples Park. He reported that several trees had been planted, including a small copse of oaks. The initiative received positive feedback from the community, with volunteers contributing to the planting efforts.

177 BARNFIELD ALLOTMENTS

Decision: It was **resolved** to make a recommendation to Full Council to instruct Contractor B and request the release of the Allotment earmarked reserve to cover the cost as well as potential additional costs if the water leak is not found during the initial investigation. (Proposed by Cllr Harris). It was emphasised that the council must be made aware if additional work beyond the initial quote is required.

Task: Make recommendation to Full Council to release the allotment earmarked reserve and proceed with contractor B to detect and repair the water leak at Barnfield allotments. @Rachel Avery

178 SCOUT MEMORIAL GARDEN MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Decision: It was **resolved** to instruct Contractor A (Proposed by Cllr Fawcett)



Task: Instruct Contractor A to maintain the Scout Memorial Garden for the 2025-2026 period.
@Emma Anderson

179 ST BONIFACE STATUE MAINTENANCE

The maintenance of the St Boniface Statue was deliberated, with concerns raised about the cost and frequency of repairs. The committee discussed whether to continue patching the joints or to undertake more extensive work. It was proposed to get quotes for patching the joints that currently need attention but continue to keep an eye on the statue's overall condition.

Decision: It was agreed to obtain quotations for repointing the sections of the St Boniface Statue that currently require attention.

Task: Obtain quotations for repointing the sections of the St Boniface Statue that currently require attention. @Emma Anderson

180 GRASS VERGE CUTTING

The Deputy Clerk explained the current situation regarding the Devon County Council (DCC) grass verge cutting scheme. The committee had already approved a contractor for the upcoming season but discussed the limited funding received from DCC for this work. The possibility of DCC taking back the responsibility for cutting visibility splays was considered, with the Deputy Clerk noting that they would only cut areas necessary for road safety. The committee agreed to continue with the current contractor for the upcoming season while awaiting further information from DCC including maps of the visibility splays.

Decision: The committee decided to continue with the current contractor for grass verge cutting for the upcoming season while awaiting further information from Devon County Council.

Task: Request maps from DCC to identify which verges would be cut under DCC contractors.
@Emma Anderson

181 TRAFFIC ISSUES

Cllr Fawssett presented a proposal to address traffic issues on Parliament Street, specifically the road outside The Three Little Pigs. The suggestion was to prevent through traffic in front of the Pigs, to improve pedestrian safety. It was agreed that Councillor Fawssett would meet with Devon County Council (DCC) Highways to discuss the feasibility and implications of the proposal. The committee emphasised the importance of consulting with the highways authority before making any decisions.

Decision: It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk and Cllr Fawssett would meet with DCC Highways to discuss the feasibility and implications of the proposal. All members are welcome to attend.

Task: Schedule a meeting with DCC to discuss traffic management in the town centre. @Emma Anderson

182 PLAY STREETS

Cllr Fawssett introduced the idea of 'play streets' on residential roads in Crediton, inspired by similar initiatives in other cities. The concept involves temporarily closing streets to allow children to play safely. The committee discussed the potential benefits and challenges, including costs and resident approval.

Emma Anderson

It was suggested that Cllr Fawssett gather more information and examples from other towns as well as consulting with DCC Highways on the feasibility and costs. The committee expressed interest in the idea but emphasised the need for detailed proposals and community engagement.

Decision: It was agreed for this proposal to be discussed during the planned meeting with DCC Highways.

Task: Gather more information and examples from other towns regarding 'play streets'.
@Giles Fawssett

183 CREDITON FOOTPATHS COMPETITION

Cllr Fawssett provided a verbal update on the Crediton Footpaths Competition, aimed at encouraging residents to use local footpaths. The competition could include time trials and other activities to promote walking and outdoor exercise. The committee supported the idea and discussed the importance of promoting footpaths for health and wellbeing.

184 BONIFACE TRAIL

Cllr Brookes-Hocking gave a verbal update on the Boniface Trail, noting the consultation results from Devon County Council (DCC). DCC will be presenting the consultation results at a meeting in Newton St Cyres on 13th March. The results will also be presented at Crediton Town Council's meeting on 18th March, at 19:30 in Crediton Library.

185 LAND SOUTH OF BARNFIELD

Cllr Brookes-Hocking provided an update on the proposals for the Land South of Barnfield. A public event is scheduled for 22nd March at the Boniface Centre from 9:30 to 13:00 to present the vision for the land and gather detailed feedback from residents regarding housing, employment opportunities, leisure activities, and environmental initiatives.

Task: Publicise event on 22 March 2025 to consult on the vision for land use south of Barnfield. @Emily Armitage

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 1 April 2025. The meeting closed at 20:38.

186 REPORTS

Signed ...

Dated... 04/06/25